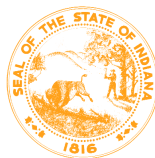


# Peggy Welch

State Representative

District 60



Fall 2001

Dear Friends,

Is summer really over? It seems that the 2001 session of the General Assembly just ended, but we adjourned April 29th. We completed our work on time after passing a two-year budget, Congressional and Legislative redistricting maps, and many other significant bills.

The 2001-2003 budget took effect on July 1st. This budget increases funding for K-12 and higher education, health insurance and home-health programs, and community corrections, and provides funding for local projects, while avoiding a general tax increase.

Of the 1,756 bills that were introduced in January, 302 bills were passed and enacted into law. Most of these new laws became effective on July 1st. They cover issues such as charter schools, telephone solicitation, drinking and driving, and election reform. If you have questions about any legislation or would like a copy of a summary of each enacted bill, please let me know.

When session ended, I spent time with our son before he left for college. I have also used this time speaking at Crane Naval Base and to classes at local schools and Indiana University. It was a privilege to be involved in two Relays for Life and several local parades. I attended the Brown and Greene County fairs and had a booth at the Monroe County fair. And it is my plan once again to have fall community meetings, so watch for a mailing giving you the schedule of when and where.

If you have any questions or if I can assist you in any way with state government, please contact me at any of the addresses listed.

Sincerely,

## CONTACT

REPRESENTATIVE  
WELCH



## RESIDENCE

2802 St. Remy Circle  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 323-7978



## LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

House of  
Representatives  
200 W. Washington  
Indianapolis, IN  
46204-2786  
1-800-382-9842  
H60@ai.org

Inside

•The new budget

•New legislation

•District map

•Local funding



# New budget increases school support, local development

The budget bill that became law continues our record of avoiding general tax increases, while providing additional state support to our schools, health care and local projects.

The final version of House Enrolled Act 1001 enables the state to increase support for public schools across Indiana by an average of 3.5 percent each of the next two fiscal years, with minimum guarantees built in to help schools avoid cutting programs and personnel. Funding for higher education was increased by an average of 3.2 percent each year.

The budget includes additional funding for the CHOICE program that provides in-home care services for the elderly and disabled, as well as Build Indiana Fund support for research and technology, community wastewater and drinking water grants, airport development and improvements to voting systems.

## Tax relief

It was disappointing that we were unable to provide the levels of tax relief that were included in past state budgets, but I am pleased that we were able to extend the life of the homestead credit at 10 percent and maintain the earned income tax credit that assists working families with lower incomes.

Businesses and farms will receive an income tax credit on personal property beginning in 2003, and laws have been changed to treat mobile homes as real property with similar deductions. The budget bill continues to fund a statewide property tax relief program that now takes about 16 percent off all property taxes. When coupled with the 10 percent homestead credit, that translates to savings of around 26 percent.

## Future considerations

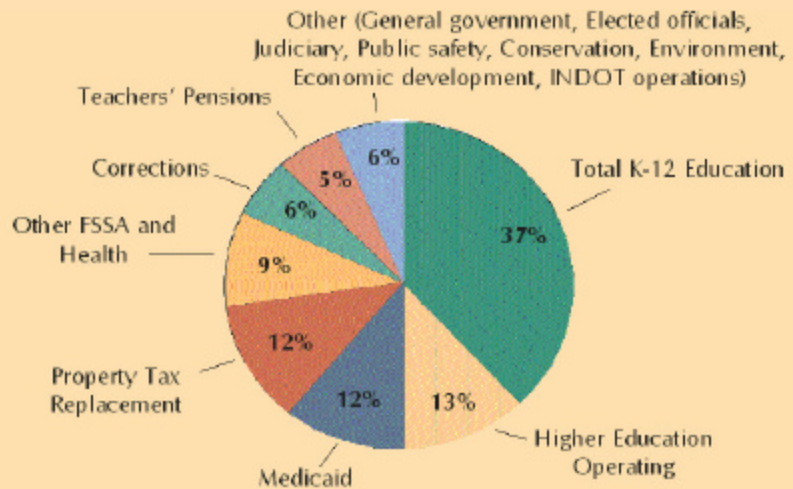
Indiana has not been immune to the economic downturn that has affected the entire country. A slowing economy has reduced the revenues coming into the state treasury, forcing us to dip into our surpluses for critical operational funds. These circumstances will require state lawmakers to make tough decisions in the next legislative session, but I believe that this is the perfect opportunity to consider restructuring our entire tax system to make it more equitable for everyone.

Indiana remains unique among states in avoiding general tax increases. While other states have raised taxes, we have returned more than \$1.5 billion in tax relief to Hoosiers. That's a record I intend to maintain as this debate occurs in the coming months.



REP. WELCH  
ADDRESSES  
THE HOUSE.

## Spending highlights from the 2001-2003 budget



## Welch's .08 law brings nearly \$3 million in federal funds to Indiana



REP. WELCH WITH GOV. FRANK O'BANNON AND LEASA FARKAS, COORDINATOR FOR MADD, MONROE CO. COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM.

This year I was delighted to author legislation lowering the legal drinking limit from .10 percent to .08 percent blood alcohol content (BAC). After years of effort on many people's part, the legislation was signed into law by Governor Frank O'Bannon.

Indiana became the 29th state to legislate the .08 BAC level, making Hoosiers eligible for \$2.89 million in incentive grant money from the U.S. Department of Transportation. These funds may be used for highway safety or highway infrastructure projects.

While I am sure the threat of lost funding did play a role in many legislators voting for this bill, I remain convinced that far more members of the House and Senate chose to support this measure because it is sound public policy.

With this proposal in place, we have another tool in our efforts to keep people who drink and drive off the road. There has been a demonstrated impact in other states that have enacted this change, and I feel we must do everything in our power to make sure that the risks created by drunken drivers are drastically reduced in Indiana.

## Welch lends expertise to Interim study committees

I was honored to be selected to serve on several study committees which meet when we are not in session. I am vice-chair of the County Government Study Committee, a member of the Indiana Commission on Excellence in Health Care and the Health Finance Commission, and a delegate for the new State Sales Tax Administration group.





## New Welch law helps organ donors

Many people assume that if they fill out a donor card or have the information placed on the back of their driver's license, their organs will be donated in the event of their death. However, old state law did not guarantee that the donor's wishes would be honored if family members refused to allow the donation. That's why I was pleased to author Public Law 130, which requires a family to honor a decedent's anatomical gift donation, but provides a legal recourse if the family chooses to challenge the donation.

Supporting a patient's right to donate will increase the number of available life-saving organs, which means that potentially hundreds more people can receive transplants. At the moment, 798 Hoosiers are waiting for organs. Nationally, 16 people die each day awaiting a transplant, and a new transplant candidate is added to a waiting list



REP. WELCH WITH HER COLLEAGUES FROM THE CHILDREN'S ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (FROM LEFT) SARA SANDERS, ANTHONY PAGANELLI, TRACY CLAY AND VERNON SMITH.

somewhere in the United States every 14 minutes.

With this law, the deceased person's wishes will be honored. It removes at least one decision for the survivors at a very difficult time.

## Build Indiana Funds go to District 60

You have probably heard in the news about changes being made in the distribution of Build Indiana Funds. The process is being investigated because we always want to use public dollars responsibly, but neither the state nor the FBI have found any wrongdoing as of yet. Below are some of the approved projects with which I am involved.

Evergreen Project  
Bloomington Community Radio  
Monroe Co. Fair Board  
Monroe Co. Girls, Inc.  
Town of Ellettsville  
Monroe Co. Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Indian Creek Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Indian Creek Community Assn.  
Ellettsville Fall Festival  
Lawrence Co. Perry Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Town of Bloomfield  
Bloomfield Little League  
Greene Co. Courthouse  
Bloomfield/Eastern Greene Library  
Green Co. Emergency Management  
Highland Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

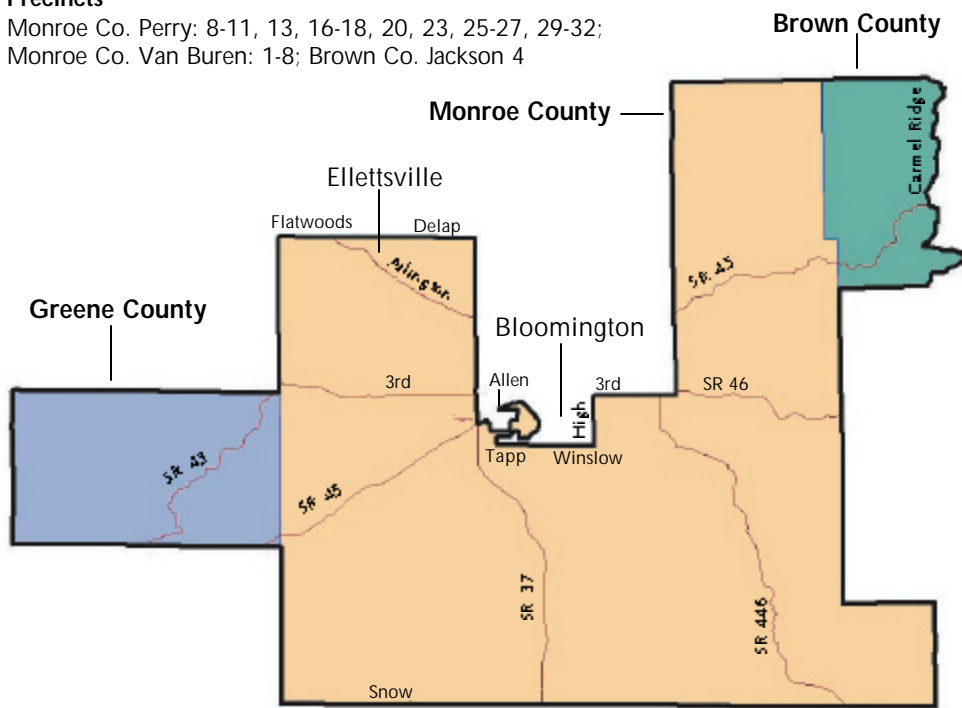
## The new look of District 60

### Townships

Greene Co: Beech Creek  
Monroe Co: Benton, Clear Creek, Indian Creek, Polk, Richland, Salt Creek

### Precincts

Monroe Co. Perry: 8-11, 13, 16-18, 20, 23, 25-27, 29-32;  
Monroe Co. Van Buren: 1-8; Brown Co. Jackson 4



During this year's session you may have heard about redistricting in the news.

After each census, the Indiana General Assembly is required by law to redraw House, Senate and Congressional district boundaries according to population changes.

Each House district must have 60,000 people, which means that as the population moves to or from various parts of the state, boundaries shift to reflect that change. District boundaries are very complicated, and it took months of effort and debate among legislators to reach a consensus. In the end, however, I feel that the district lines we have drawn are as fair as possible.

For both the current constituents and those new to the district, I look forward to serving you. Please contact me if you have questions about the district or any other matters.



Representative Peggy Welch  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indiana House of  
Representatives

## Charter schools, new kindergarten date

Stay informed about these  
and other issues online with  
Representative Welch



After several years of debate, legislators finally agreed to pass a bill that will allow charter schools in the state of Indiana. These are independent schools that are able to design their own curriculums and control their own spending without worrying about state authority.

Under Senate Enrolled Act 165, three groups have the ability to sponsor charter schools: local school boards, Indiana's public universities and the mayor of Indianapolis. Those entities will be required to set up their own criteria for establishing the schools, and advocates are hopeful that sponsors can begin accepting applications from interested parties before the end of this year.

### New kindergarten date

Children who turned five years of age by July 1 were able to attend kindergarten classes this fall through a provision included in the state budget. Previously, a child had to be five by June 1. It is the intention of most legislators to eventually change this enrollment date to August 1.

## Privacy from Telemarketers

In 2001, lawmakers took steps to help reduce the interruption of telemarketers calling you at home. Through House Enrolled Act 1222, you will be able to have your name placed on a do-not-call list that will **prohibit most solicitors from contacting you via the telephone.**

You can register your household now for the list, which takes effect January 1, 2002. Over 200,000 Hoosiers have already signed on. It takes just a few minutes to register, and the service is free.

To be placed on the list, contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about the **Telephone Privacy List at 1-888-834-9969 or register online at [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/).**

Web: [www.in.gov/R60](http://www.in.gov/R60)

E-mail: [H60@ai.org](mailto:H60@ai.org)